

## **Leesville Bicycle & Pedestrian Safety Taskforce**

### **MEETING SUMMARY**

*November 26, 2012*

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#### **What is the Leesville Bicycle & Pedestrian Safety Taskforce?**

The Leesville Bicycle & Pedestrian Safety Taskforce is a varied group of individuals who share a similar goal: to raise awareness of bicycle and pedestrian safety concerns in the Leesville Community, to share and plan safety activities, and to develop a plan to improve the existing infrastructure so that residents are able to safely walk and bike in and around their neighborhood. The Taskforce includes local, county, and state-level stakeholders who have committed to meet regularly in 2013. Participants represent various disciplines, including but not limited to: 1) Decision-makers and elected officials, 2) Law enforcement officials, 3) Planners and engineers, 4) School representatives, 5) Neighborhood representatives and 5) Anyone with an interest in furthering the above goals may participate in the group; membership is not intended to be exclusive.

#### **What was discussed during the November 26<sup>th</sup> meeting?**

In the November 26<sup>th</sup> meeting, City staff gave a presentation of existing and planned infrastructure improvements in and around the Leesville community area. Specifically, Parks & Recreation staff discussed the Leesville Park Master Plan and future improvements planned to the park facility. Transportation staff stated that Leesville Road from Springdale Road to Lynn Road is slated for a future widening that would include curb and gutter installation as well as bicycle and pedestrian facilities. This project is currently unfunded in the City's Capital Improvement Plan.

Staff also discussed an initiative to apply for an NCDOT Safe Routes to School grant to improve walking and biking conditions to and from the Leesville School Complex. Working in small groups around large maps of the Leesville School Complex, participants were asked to highlight the areas they felt needed improvement in their neighborhoods and identify the top three opportunities and the top three barriers to walking and biking. Each major action item can be found in the table on the following pages, including a summary of the action item, who would take the lead in implementing the action and the proposed timeframe.

#### **What is the Federal Safe Routes to School Program?**

Safe Routes to School is a national and international movement to enable and encourage children, including those with disabilities, to walk and bicycle to school. SRTS programs are comprehensive efforts that look at ways to make walking and bicycling to school a safer and more appealing transportation alternative, thus encouraging a healthy and active lifestyle from an early age.

#### **What does the Safe Routes to School Program look like in North Carolina?**

The North Carolina Department of Transportation's Safe Routes to School Program facilitates the planning, development, and implementation of projects and activities that will improve safety and reduce traffic, fuel consumption, and air pollution in the vicinity of schools. SRTS programs consider infrastructure enhancements to provide a safe physical environment for bicycling and walking. These programs also emphasize non-infrastructure approaches to educate and encourage communities on how to safely take advantage of walking and bicycling opportunities in their neighborhoods. Through an application process, communities may use this funding to construct new bike lanes, pathways, and sidewalks, as well as to launch Safe Routes education and promotion campaigns in elementary and middle schools.

<b><u>Action Item A:</u></b>	<b>Name the Wake County Public School System road that connects O’Neal Road to Country Trail Drive</b>
<b>Lead:</b>	WCPPS
<b>Others needed?:</b>	No
<b>Timeframe:</b>	Spring 2013

<b><u>Action Item B:</u></b>	<b>Install school wayfinding signs for visitors to the Leesville School Complex from Leesville Road; Signs are needed north of O’Neal Road and South of Country Trail Road</b>
<b>Lead:</b>	City of Raleigh Transportation Operations Division
<b>Others needed?:</b>	No
<b>Timeframe:</b>	Spring 2013

<b><u>Action Item C:</u></b>	<b>Expand trail system at the Leesville Community Park to connect with neighborhoods in the South and to the Wake County Public Library</b>
<b>Lead:</b>	City of Raleigh Parks & Recreation Department
<b>Others needed?:</b>	No
<b>Timeframe:</b>	Complete by 2014

<b><u>Action Item D:</u></b>	<b>Apply for a NCDOT Safe Routes to School Grant that proposes:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New sidewalk infrastructure on Country Trl, School Road, O’Neal Rd, and internally on the Leesville School Complex.</li> <li>• Bicycle Facilities on O’Neal Rd, School Rd and Country Trl</li> <li>• Pedestrian intersection improvements at: O’Neal Rd/Leesville Rd, O’Neal/School Rd, O’Neal Rd/Killarney Hope Rd, O’Neal Rd/Coffeetree Dr, O’Neal Rd/Tallowtree Dr, Country Trl/Leesville Rd, Country Trl/School Road, Country Trl/Pinecrest Rd</li> <li>• Bicycle Parking at Leesville School Complex</li> <li>• Non-Infrastructure programs for Leesville Elementary and Leesville Middle Schools</li> </ul>
<b>Lead:</b>	City of Raleigh Office of Transportation Planning
<b>Others needed?:</b>	Yes. City of Raleigh Public Works Staff, City of Parks & Recreation Staff, NCDOT Division 5, Leesville Bicycle & Pedestrian Safety Taskforce, Wake County Public School System, Leesville Elementary & Middle School staff, Leesville Library, PTA’s, Wake County
<b>Timeframe:</b>	Submit application by June 2013

<b>Action Item E:</b>	<b>Participate in the Parks &amp; Recreation System Plan update process that will identify improvements to the Leesville Community Park</b>
<b>Lead:</b>	Citizen Task Force
<b>Others needed?:</b>	Yes
<b>Timeframe:</b>	System Plan to be complete by end of 2013. The next round of public meetings will be held in May.

<b>Action Item F:</b>	<b>Initiate Traffic Calming Project review for O'Neal Road :</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct speed study along O'Neal Road</li> <li>• Evaluate Three way stop feasibility at O'Neal and School Road intersection</li> </ul>
<b>Lead:</b>	Citizen Task Force
<b>Others needed?:</b>	Yes, City of Raleigh Public Works
<b>Timeframe:</b>	Complete by Spring 2013

<b>Action Item G:</b>	<b>Conduct a Walk to School Day Activity at Leesville Elementary, Middle and High Schools</b>
<b>Lead:</b>	Citizen Task Force
<b>Others needed?:</b>	Yes, City of Raleigh Office of Transportation Planning, WCPSS, School Administration, NCDOT
<b>Timeframe:</b>	Walk to School Day is Oct 2 and Bike to School Day is May 8

<b>Action Item H:</b>	<b>Advocate for crossing guards deployed at several different locations connecting to Leesville School Complex</b>
<b>Lead:</b>	Citizen Task Force
<b>Others needed?:</b>	Yes, City of Raleigh Public Works, WCPSS, School Administration, Raleigh Police Department
<b>Timeframe:</b>	Spring 2013

<b>Action Item I:</b>	<b>Participate in the development of the City's ten-year Transportation Action Plan (TAP); Advocate for infrastructure improvements in the Leesville Community</b>
<b>Lead:</b>	Citizen Task Force
<b>Others needed?:</b>	Yes, City of Raleigh Office of Transportation Planning, CAC, City Council
<b>Timeframe:</b>	TAP to be complete by summer 2013

Public Comments Received:

These items were mentioned in the November 26th meeting but are not related to a specific action item at this time:

1. We would like to have a system to report dangerous driving/drivers with consequences at the high school for students
2. Stoplight at Fairbanks & Leesville Rd.
3. 35 mph on Leesville Rd.- reduce from 45 mph
4. High school drivers speeding in morning and during lunch releases
5. Need crosswalks at Tylerton and Leesville Rd.
6. Crosswalk/pedestrian light- no sidewalk on Springdale Rd side
7. Need full sidewalk extension down Leesville Rd. to Lynn Rd.
8. Need Leesville Rd. widened
9. Need lights at Pinecrest and/or better bike path
10. Width of Leesville Rd. near high school- no turn lanes, no sidewalks on 1 side, no crosswalks
11. Lack of organization in school complex/parking lot- traffic in Kingswood Ridge, no sidewalks, narrow roads, no light on Leesville/Country Trail
12. Turn lanes on Leesville
13. High school students use O'Neal as cut-through to avoid Leesville traffic. They speed, making it dangerous for bikers and walkers because there are no sidewalks or bike paths.